Relaxation in Duties on Import of Hot-Rolled Coils

2842. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Asian Age dated July 11,1997 captioned 'Essar Steel Plea on duties wins favours';

(b) if so, the factual position of the news-item;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to relax duties on hot-rolled coils; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The petition of M/s. Essar Steel Ltd. for imposition of anti-dumping duties on Hot Rolled Coils is under consideration of the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce.

(c) and (d) As regards the customs duty on hot rolled coils, the same was reduced from 30% to 25% in the Budget 1997. There is no proposal at present to change this duty structure.

Assistance of Asian Development Bank to Uttar Pradesh

2843. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for various development of projects in Uttar Pradesh with the help of Asian Development Bank;

(b) the details of these projects;

(c) whether some work have also been undertaken with the help of Asian Development Bank in the State during 1996-97; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) A loan of US$ 31.318 million was approved by Asian Development Bank on October 30, 1990 for Uttar Pradesh under the Second Road Improvement Project. During 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 38.29 crores was spent under the project. The ramaining work is likely to be completed by June 30, 1998.

Besides the above project, there are ADB assisted Central/Public Sector Projects, such as, Road Improvement Project, Second Railways Project, Unchahar Thermal Power Project in which U.P. is a beneficiary state.

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

2844. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Lok Adalats held in various States during each of the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of in these Lok Adalats, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the nature of cases filed in these Adalats and the way in the which these have been disposed of;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to make these Adalats more effective;

(e) if so, the detial thereof; and

(f) the number of Lok Adalats proposed to be held during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards/State Legal Services Authorities and would be laid on the Table of the House when received.

(c) Ordinarily, the civil, revenue and criminal disputes which are compoundable, MACT cases, cases involving mutation of lands, land pattas, forest lands, bonded labour, land acquisition cases, matrimonial and family disputes and bank loan cases are being filed in the Lok Adalats. These disputes are resolved through conciliatory and persuasive methods to the satisfaction of both the parties to the dispute.

(d) and (e) Lok Adalats have been provided a statutory base with the enforcement of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, as amended, with effect from the 9th November, 1997.

Under section 21 of the said Act, every award of the Lok Adalat is a decree of a civil court or, as the case may be, an order of any other court, and every award made by the Lok Adalats is final and binding on all the parties to the dispute and no appeal lies to any court against the award.

(f) The Lok Adalats are being organised by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards/State Legal Services Authorities in different parts of the country from time to time. The recent Law Ministers' Conference have decided to hold intensive Lok Adalats from 15th August, 1997 to 15th August, 1998.